

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to replace 10 wt% with 3 wt% as the upper limit of the first component. Support for the amendment can be found within the present specification, specifically at page 3, lines 9-13. Claims 5-15 are currently withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,657,754 to Bauer et al. (hereinafter "Bauer").

Bauer is relied upon to assertedly teach a method of manufacturing alumina powder wherein a firing temperature at 1250°C produces 100% of  $\alpha$ -alumina powder with a primary particle size of 70 nm and 100 nm and which contains 6 wt% of silica and 23% of titania and 4% of iron oxide.

However, Bauer does not disclose an  $\alpha$ -alumina powder containing not more than 3 wt% of silica, zirconium, phosphorus or boron.

The  $\alpha$ -alumina powder disclosed in Bauer is different from the  $\alpha$ -alumina powder of the present invention as recited in amended Claim 1 in at least the amount of one first component selected from silicon, zirconium, phosphorus and boron.

Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is novel over Bauer.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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